EU CONEXUS

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Final impact report on the two EU-CONEXUS Festivals

D17.1
Final version
WP17 Community Engagement through Arts and Culture

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Statistics, best practices and improvement for the next editions ..... **Erreur ! Signet non défini.**

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Introduction

This report describes the internal and external impact of the two editions of EU-CONEXUS Festival held over the second phase of EU-CONEXUS Plus.

In relation to T17.1 and T17.2, two EU-CONEXUS Festivals were organized over the 2022-2026 period, in La Rochelle (France) on 28-29-30th March 2023 and in Limassol (Cyprus) on 13-14-15th May 2025.

Both universities, La Rochelle Université (LRUniv) and Frederick University (FredU) were celebrating a special anniversary, 30th anniversary for LRUniv in 2023 and 60th anniversary for FredU in 2025.

These two editions of EU-CONEXUS Festival were organized based on a "Concept and Scope of EU-CONEXUS Festival" established by WP17 members "Community engagement through arts and culture" (WP17 milestone 11 delivered M4).

EU-CONEXUS Festival concept originates from the lessons learnt from holding the first two Festival editions during EU-CONEXUS Pilot phase, in Klaipeda in August 2021 and in Bucharest in April 2022.

The "Concept and Scope of EU-CONEXUS Festival" states that the event is organized over three days once every two years at a partner university of the Alliance and that it focuses on three target groups:

- EU-CONEXUS Community
- The general public
- The local/regional stakeholders

The Festival concept emphasizes a triple objective which is to strengthen the sense of belonging to the Alliance, promote the EU-CONEXUS identity and make the Alliance more visible at local level by reinforcing the development of partnerships with local and regional territory actors (public authorities, stakeholders…).

In terms of programming, an EU-CONEXUS Festival is structured around student artistic projects selected via an annual call, the organization of cultural thematic workshops and side activities such as sports or research-based activities. The general public is invited where possible to the Festival activities as well as the local stakeholders.

Sustainability of EU-CONEXUS Festival

Two festivals based or associated with local events

Organizing every two years a completely new Festival with a dedicated programme, logistics, marketing, and the management of local partnerships is very demanding and requires lots of effort. For this reason, it was decided and stated in EU-CONEXUS Plus Proposal that EU-CONEXUS Festival 3rd and 4th editions would be based on existing local events or festivals.

The **3rd edition organized by La Rochelle Université** was based on an existing local festival called « les étudiants à l'affiche » (FLEAA) which has been running annually at LRUniv since 2000.

Each FLEAA usually gathers around 250 to 300 local students and offers them the opportunity to perform artistic projects prepared in artistic and cultural workshops held all the year through at LRUniv. Strong collaborations with various local political authorities, artistic and cultural stakeholders have been established all over these years. The local public (La Rochelle Université community, the general public from La Rochelle and local stakeholders) is invited to attend freely the two weeks' event.

In 2023, the FLEAA ran over 13 days from 23rd March to 4th April with 37 events taking place, 3 300 festival-goers and 300 local students involved. In order to make links with EU-CONEXUS Festival and the Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (SmUCS) identity, the theme of the coast was given to the FLEAA as a red threat and this new European dimension underlined in all communication aspects. The FLEAA and EU-CONEXUS Festival were interconnected with joint events on 28th, 29th and 30th March 2023.

The dates of the **4th edition** (13th to 15th May 2025) **organized by Frederick University** were carefully chosen so that they coincide with the 5th edition of the Blue Limassol Forum co-organized by Frederick University's Department of Maritime Transport & Commerce and the Municipality of Limassol, second largest city of Cyprus and maritime hub.

The Blue Limassol Forum is a highly anticipated event and a broad-based platform in which all maritime professionals, environmentalists, port authorities, academics, students are invited to attend freely and discuss issues related to blue economy and the challenges that coastal areas face today.

The 5th Blue Limassol Forum 2025 focused on the ongoing transformation of Limassol's coastal zone and the promotion of integrated practices for sustainable urban development.

It was held on 15 May 2025, drawing strong participation from citizens, academics, researchers, and professionals active in shipping and sustainable coastal development.

EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Mr. Costas Kadis, delivered the keynote address while distinguished speakers from Cyprus and abroad shared their insights on pressing issues such as sustainable development, green energy, and marine pollution monitoring through artificial intelligence technologies. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Yiannis Armeftis, Mayor of Limassol, and Professor George Demosthenous, Rector of Frederick University.

Budget

In order to organize the 3rd and 4th editions of EU-CONEXUS Festival, both LRUniv and FredU, had an allocated budget of 30,000 EUR.

A dedicated mobility budget for students presenting their artistic projects was also planned so that two students per partner university (16 students in total) could travel to the EU-CONEXUS Festival venue.

In 2023, EU-CONEXUS Festival benefited from the FLEAA organizational support and cost mutualization especially on the communication aspect. Out of the 30.000 EUR, only 14 474 EUR were spent and the remaining 15 526 EUR contributed to finance WP17 cultural and artistic activities over 2023-2026.

In 2025, the allocated budget for EU-CONEXUS Festival was all spent covering for all the planned activities ranging from the outdoor exhibition to the performances, opening and closing ceremonies, workshops and catering for all events.

For both editions, for cost reduction and in order to have an eco-friendly event, EU-CONEXUS Festival programme was only shared online in 2023 and 2025.

Impact on EU-CONEXUS institutions and Consortium

One of the main objectives of the EU-CONEXUS Festival is to reinforce a sense of belonging to the Alliance. The Festival addresses the students' community in priority but also the academic and non-academic staff.

All activities performed promote the Alliance identity with the development of a better knowledge and understanding of the culture of each partner country by experiencing other nationalities, culture and languages.

Students

EU-CONEXUS Festival valorizes and promotes first EU-CONEXUS student cultural and artistic initiatives.

Through an open call, students are encouraged to submit a cultural and artistic project to be presented during the Festival. The call is open to all artistic disciplines (visual arts, performing arts, fashion, literature, …) and all formats (concert, artistic walkabout, performance, reading, exhibition, movie/documentary, etc.).

The call encourages individual but also inter-institutional projects in order to strengthen the cultural bonding between students of the Alliance.

Since the budget dedicated to students mobilities to EU-CONEXUS Festival was limited per festival to two students per partner university, each university tried when possible to use other fundings (Erasmus +, national funding like the French PIA) in order to finance more students to travel.

Finally, in order to widen the student community, efforts were made at the Alliance level to organize other student activities or meetings before or in parallel to the Festival.

In 2023, **51 students** attended EU-CONEXUS Festival.

Students were first selected via the call for cultural and artistic projects. The theme of the call remained broad to promote and enhance EU-CONEXUS Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability identity.

The call was launched at the beginning of December 2022 with a deadline to the 13th January 2023.

34 projects were submitted (19 visual arts, 2 workshops and 13 performances) and 19 projects (out of 20 projects selected) were presented during the Festival. 32 students were initially involved in them but because of the limited mobility budget for 16 students, the SNCF (French railway) strike context and lastminute personal issues preventing from participating, only **23 students played an active part during the festival.**

			Projects selected	students / project	Presence during the Festival
Visual arts					
Aphrodite "reformed"	installation	FredU	1	2	2
Adaptaciones no abruptas	installation	UCV	1	1	1
The Ingenious Odysseus of Today	Painting	AUA	1	1	1
Circular economy	Painting	AUA	1	1	1
The oyster	Painting	AUA	1	1	0
The Colors of Future	Painting	UNIZD	1	1	0
Another way to look around	photography	UROS	1	1	1
Les Falles: cendres del ressorgir	photography	UCV	1	2	2
The Ugly Duckling	video	UNIZD	1	2	0
FEMER²	video	LRUniv	1	4	0
		TOTAL	**10**	**16**	**8**
Workshop					
The multicultural learning space: The benefit of multiple perspectives		SETU	**1**	**2**	**1**
Music					
A Coastal Chorus		SETU	1	1	1
Born in the past		UTCB	1	1	1
Unu, Dos, Trois...		UTCB	1	2	2
Etu'Band		LRuniv	1	4	4
		TOTAL	**4**	**8**	**8**
Dance					
Upside-down : a new way of being	aerial acrobatic	AUA	**1**	**2**	**2**
Performances					
WOMAN		KU	1	1	1
Do you sea me ?		UTCB	1	1	1
Love by the sea shore		UTCB	1	1	1
Ebb and Flow/Verbatim		UTCB	1	1	1
		TOTAL	**4**	**4**	**4**
	TOTAL		**20**	**32**	**23**
	TOTAL Final		**19***	**32**	**23**
			Projects presented	**students / project**	**Presence during the Festival**





In parallel to the Festival and in order to widen the outreach of the student community, the 3rd edition welcomed:

- The Student Board annual, in-person meeting – 10 members

- A physical training week within the course “Entrepreneurship and innovation around sustainable tourism” in EU-CONEXUS Minor Programme “Coastal Development and Sustainable Maritime Tourism” – 17 Minor Students
- A sport event “Mille Sabords” (Urban sport raid) adapted to students with disabilities in the frame of the SHIE (Sport Handicap Inclusive Experience - KA220-HED) project – 9 students

Please note that among the students presenting artistic projects, some were also Student Board members or SHIE students.

In 2025, 95 students attended EU-CONEXUS Festival.

This 4th edition was entitled “Welcome to the Hotel Mediterranean” and was based on the notion of the sustainability of the mediterranean sea. The theme aimed at pointing out the dynamics of the Mediterranean and questioned the notion of the Mediterranean Sea as a homeland, a refuge or a holiday destination.
The call for cultural and artistic student project proposals was launched in June 2024 with a deadline to 16th December then extended to 17th January 2025.

86 projects were submitted (76 visual arts and 10 performances) and **26 selected** (20 visual arts and 6 performances) involving **28 students.**

Title of the student projects		University	Nb of projects	Nb of students
VISUAL ARTS				
The Ivy-Clad retreat	Visual	UTCB	1	1
A Mediterranean Tryst	Visual	UTCB	1	
Un' altra dimensione	Visual	UTCB	1	1
Mediterranean Memories	Visual	SETU (Wexford)	1	1
Washed-Up, but here.	Visual	SETU	1	1
Daughter of the Hotel Worker	Visual	SETU	1	1
Hostile Rocks	Visual	AUA	1	1
Ethereal Sailing	Visual	AUA	1	1
Srce Sredozemnog mora	Visual	UNIZD	1	1
˝Mediterranean in Childs Eyes˝	Visual	UNIZD	1	1
Mediterranean Haven	visual	LRUniv	1	1
Echoes of the mediterranean	Visual	Frederick University	1	1
HOPE	Visual	frederick	1	1
Mediteranean	Visual	Frederick University	1	1
Mediterranean	Visual	Frederick University	1	1
Mediterranean	Visual	Frederick University	1	
"Mediterranean Sea"	Visual	Frederick University	1	1
"Mediterranean Sea"	Visual	Frederick University	1	
Letter	Visual	Frederick University	1	1
Genocide	Visual	Frederick University	1	
		SUB TOTAL	**20**	**16**
PERFORMING ART				
The mediterranean mystery	Poetry	KU	1	1
The Eternal Shores	Poetry	LRUniv	1	1
Atlanthropia	Music	LRUniv	1	4
Naci en el Mediterraneo	Music	UCV	1	2
The Rebirth of Classical Music	Music	UTCB	1	1
The Sea in M. K. Čiurlionis music and paintings, and its interpretation facing global issues such as pollution and climate change	Pantomine	KU	1	3
		SUB TOTAL	**6**	**12**
		TOTAL	**26**	**28**

Again, in order to bring a bigger student community to Limassol, raise impact on the community and mutualize all aspects of the Festival, the 2025 edition welcomed the annual in-person Student Board meeting with 18 Student Board members.

It was also agreed to integrate within the Festival programme a Student Congress from the IamSTUDENT project – Building Student Identity for European Universities Alliance (KA220-HED) and one inter-campus activity also planned in the project.

It was estimated that merging these two events would be more cost effective and would benefit from a higher concentration of students, engaging them in co-construction workshops.

The EU-CONEXUS Student Congress engaged students and partners in co-constructing a shared student identity and inter-campus culture. In particular, it served as a key instrument for brainstorming, reflection and motivation, allowing students to actively shape the “IamEU-CONEXUS” identity.

The Student Congress consisted in a series of lessons learned sessions and workshops in order to collect feedback to be integrated to both IamEUCONEXUS identity action plan and EU-CONEXUS Roadmap for student inter-campus life.

In total, the Student Congress brought 54 partner and 8 local participants – at least 6 students and 2 project staff per partner.

2025 - Students participating to the Festival	
LRUniv	12
AUA	10
UCV	13
KU	10
UNIZD	8
UTCB	11
SETU	7
UROS	1
FredU	23
TOTAL	**95**

More involvement of the Student Community

The involvement of the Student Community at LRUniv and FredU began well before the start of the Festival with the creation of the Festival visuals. Both Festival visuals were created by a student.

2023

For both Festivals, FLEAA and EU-CONEXUS, the visual was created by a Bachelor student in Physics and Chemistry at LRUniv, Maël Mazéo who used to attend the weekly Comic strip and Graphic Design workshop organized by LRUniv Student House/Cultural Space.

Names and colors were reversed depending on the target groups and communication aspects and it was evident in all design literature and materia that were distributed to the Festival participants.



2025

At FredU, the Festival identity was established after a competition among the Graphic Design students of the Arts and Communication Department. The winning design by Christina Osipidou, Bachelor student of the Visual Communication Program was used throughout the promotion of the Festival and it was evident in all design literature and material that was distributed to all participants.

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Feedback from students

Following both Festival editions, an overall satisfactory students survey was conducted to assess the students' experiences and gather feedback for future improvements. The survey aimed to capture insights regarding the Festival organization, the quality of the activities and the sense of community developed among students.

In 2023, a total of 22 responses were received.

Key Findings were:

- The Festival Overall Experience was reported as amazing (48%) and unforgettable (48%);
- 68% of students strongly agreed and 18% agreed to say that their curiosity about EU-CONEXUS countries and cultures had increased;
- 55% strongly agreed and 41% agreed to say that their sense of belonging to EU-CONEXUS Alliance had strengthened;

- 41% strongly agreed and 50% agreed that their understanding of EU-CONEXUS identity (Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability) was better;
- 91% stated that they had met new friends but time was too short and the Festival programme too dense to have enough time to socialize.

In **2025**, a total of 53 responses were received, with 42 fully completed and 11 partially completed questionnaires.

Key Findings were:

- The Festival Overall Experience was reported as excellent (66%) and good (19%);
- Activities organization were rated with an average score of 8 on a scale of 0 (very poor) to 10 (excellent);
- Festival activities were rated as being "well balanced and diverse" by 62,26 % and "too many" 13,21%;
- The Student Congress Overall Experience was rated as good (37.74%) and excellent (24.53%);
- 58.5% felt more connected to students from other EU-CONEXUS universities after the Congress;
- 67.92% said that their curiosity about EU-CONEXUS countries and cultures increased;
- 39.6% agreed that their sense of belonging to EU-CONEXUS Alliance strengthened and 35.35% strongly agreed;
- 73.59% confirmed that they would like to participate in future EU-CONEXUS events and top three are inter-campus exchanges (69.81%), joint cultural events (52.83%) and language exchange tandem (41.51%).

Student testimonials were also gathered at the level of each institution. Besides the student satisfaction on the overall event, the strengthening of the student intercultural awareness appears as a key point.

- *"An amazing Festival, it was a joy to meet and share moments with young people from so many different countries".* Student from Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

- *"… It was a growing experience and we came away with a few new contacts and a lot of memories!"* Student from La Rochelle Université

- *"An unforgettable experience, with encounters from around the world, cultural exchange and creativity".* – Student from Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

- *"A truly unique experience, as I had the chance to meet so many new people. I formed friendships with people who have similar passions and career aspirations. To sum up, this experience gave me the motivation to keep moving forward and pursue my ambitions."* Student from Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

- *"The diversity of our nine partner universities was really celebrated – and yet there was this strong sense of community that connected us all. … Once again it was clear: Nothing replaces face-to-face meetings. They not only bring better results, but also this special togetherness. Whether through art contributions, performances or involvement in the committees….*

I didn't have a single highlight – it was more the many small, special moments that made the whole thing so unforgettable". Student from University of Rostock, Germany and Former President of EU-CONEXUS Student Board

- *"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to attend the EU-CONEXUS Festival in Limassol. It was an honour to represent SETU by showcasing one of my artworks. This experience allowed me to network with students from different European universities, all united by a shared passion for sustainability and creative expression. It made me think of the importance of international collaboration in contemporary world. It has motivated me to continue exploring themes of important world issues and sustainability, and the role of art and culture and how they could help solve some of these problems. This festival gave me hope that even though there are different forms of art and different meanings to art, there's also this idea that art can convey messages and make people think about ecological and sustainability problems, and maybe, at some point, even slightly make a change. I'm really thankful for the support that made this amazing experience happen."* Student from South East Technological University, Ireland

- *"EU-CONEXUS Festival introduced me to other cultures and students from far and wide. I enjoyed the visual and social aspects of Limassol as a growing city combining old and new. The interactions with other international students helped my social skills enormously and has given me courage to consider travelling more in the future. I feel this trip has contributed to keeping my creativity alive and inspiring my artworks".* Student from South East Technological University, Ireland

- *"I loved meeting students from other universities and learning about their education systems. It's amazing to experience different cultures!"* Student from South East Technological University, Ireland

- *"The benefits of this EU-CONEXUS mobility have been immense. Growing up near the coast in Wexford, coastal activities have always been part of my life, but this trip gave me a much greater appreciation for the challenges of maintaining these areas. I was also introduced to many new cultures through meeting people from the eight other partner universities involved with EU-CONEXUS. Most importantly, I gained a deeper understanding of community by forming bonds with individuals across Europe that I believe will last well into the future. Without EU-CONEXUS, I wouldn't have had this opportunity, and I'm extremely grateful—especially as international alliances and mutual respect are so vital today."* Student from South East Technological University, Ireland

- *"It was an incredible opportunity to meet people from all over Europe. The atmosphere, the exchanges and the shared projects made it a truly unique and unforgettable experience. I've come away from it with an even broader mindset and a real sense of belonging to the European student community."* Student from La Rochelle Université, France

- *"As an international student in the Joint Master's programme in Marine Biotechnology within EU-CONEXUS, I had a memorable experience at the Festival and took many photos to capture these special moments…. Performing my poem "The Eternal Shores" was a big personal step for me…. But it helped me grow and gave me more confidence to share my thoughts openly…. I also received feedback from students from other universities, which made the experience even*

richer…. It showed me that in this alliance, every voice is valued. The strength of EU-CONEXUS lies in the collective respect given to every voice by its entire community". Student from EU-CONEXUS Joint Master in Marine Biotechnology.

Post Limassol Festival – level of change at each institution

This 4th Festival edition really marked a significant change in the student community engagement in the Alliance activities. WP17 "Community engagement through arts and culture" and WP12 "Supporting Student Engagement" staff members experienced it, at the level of their institution or in their activities and they testify to that effect.

La Rochelle Université (LRUniv), France
12 students (6 performing artistic projects and 6 IamSTUDENT students) attended EU-CONEXUS Festival in May 2025.
In Autumn 2025, two applied to be student Ambassadors and two to become Student Board members, one among these two having made strong friendship with two Student Board members from Catholic University of Valencia.
One student volunteered to participate into LRUniv annual Green Party (September 2025) to hold with EU-CONEXUS staff the EU-CONEXUS booth.
One student got involved in the student "Coastal Tongues" project (WP12 / 3rd call for student projects) and is working on a Coastal Survival Dictionary and an international podcast.

Catholic University of Valencia (UCV), Spain brought to EU-CONEXUS Festival 13 students financed by IamSTUDENT project, JMPMB project, EU-CONEXUS Plus and Erasmus+ KA131funds.
During the Festival, students participated in all the activities and in the Students' Congress, making new connections and friendships that will support future collaboration. After the Festival, all 12 students became EU-CONEXUS Ambassadors (some of them left later, as they had completed their studies at UCV).

These UCV students, in collaboration with students from other universities whom they had met during the Festival, submitted two projects in response to the 3rd Call for Student Projects (WP12) and both were selected.

Moreover, these students have since become more actively involved in EU-CONEXUS activities, applying for courses and other initiatives, and suggesting new ideas to improve student engagement.

Following the Festival, one UCV student became the EU-CONEXUS Student Board representative for UCV, and another was selected as Chair of the Student Board.

South East Technological University (SETU), Ireland
As a direct impact from student connections created at the EU-CONEXUS Festival in Cyprus is the project titled "The Camino de EU-CONEXUS". The project idea was formed by a group of students at the Festival which has literally grown legs. Super-headed by three students from South East Technological University (Ireland), Catholic University of Valencia (Spain) and Agricultural University of Athens (Greece), the project now brings together 20 students from across EU-CONEXUS to participate in a 100 km pilgrimage way along the Camino Portugués, from Tuy to Santiago de Compostela during 7 days.

During the length of the project (pre- and during the journey) the participants will investigate how changes perception of the sea and related industrial activities and a walk such as the Camino de Santiago changes personality.

This project idea came from strong bonds formed at the Festival and invites students from across the Alliance to take part in this sustainable tourism project. The impact of the Festival from a student engagement perspective is on-going and this project output is a testament to that.

From the perspective of the **Student Board secretary (WP12)**, "*the Festival played an important role in bringing students together. Many of them connected during the event, and because the deadline for submitting project proposals was only 15 days later, we received several proposals from students who met there. Some project ideas even emerged directly during the Festival itself. As students learned more about EU-CONEXUS and the opportunities available to them, many expressed interest in joining the Student Board, and some eventually applied for projects even months after the Festival, now that they have a better understanding of what EU-CONEXUS offers.*
The Festival provided a valuable space for students to connect, gain insight into EU-CONEXUS, and explore the opportunities open to them. Regarding student projects, the process of finding partners from other universities has become significantly faster and smoother thanks to the relationships formed during the Festival".

Staff

In order to widen the impact of EU-CONEXUS Festival at the institutional level, staff members (academic and non-academic) are also invited to be part of the event. Some activities (sport challenges, thematic workshops) are open to the whole community and Working Groups can be held before or in parallel to the Festival which allows for an evening participation to the student performances.

In **2023**, 19 staff members came to La Rochelle Festival:

- Joint Communication Unit meeting – 7 members
- WP17 members – 2 members
- SHIE (Sport Handicap Inclusive Experience project) staff meeting – 6 members
- Jobshadowers – 3
- Accompanying staff – 1

It is therefore an EU-CONEXUS community of **70 people** (students and staff members) who made the trip to La Rochelle. Only part of the delegation from the University of Zadar (Croatia) had to cancel their trip due to the French train strike.

In **2025,** based on the 2023 Festival achievements, many more EU-CONEXUS Working Groups decided to hold their physical annual meeting before or during the event.

- WP13 "*EU-CONEXUS Career Network*" meeting
- WP16 "*Green Campus*" meeting
- WP17 "*Community engagement through arts and culture*" – staff gathering for the Festival
- EU-CONEXUS Enables staff meeting
- Governing Board meeting
- External Advisory Board meeting
- Governing Board and Student Board meeting
- Governing Board and External Advisory Board meeting
- EU-CONEXA General Assembly
- IamStudent staff meeting

- Strategic Workshop between Governing Board members & External Advisory Board members

In total, staff members, including University rectors, were 90.

2025 - Staff members participating to the Festival	
LRUniv	16
AUA	4
UCV	5
KU	7
UNIZD	7
UTCB	15
SETU	10
UROS	5
FredU	21
TOTAL	**90**





Impact on the local public

Another goal of EU-CONEXUS Festival is to be more visible at local territory level in order for local participants to experiment the variety of EU-CONEXUS cultures, nationalities and languages and develop a new sense of European citizenship.

During the **2023 Festival**, many activities or events within EU-CONEXUS Festival were open to the local public with free access. This was made possible because of the FLEAA / EU-CONEXUS Festival combination. Some events took place, when possible, in La Rochelle city center public spaces.

The participation of the local public was as follows:

- « European mish – mash » students visual arts exhibition at LRUniv library from 28th March to 22nd April 2023, open to the general public from 08.30 am to 8 pm; the number of visitors was not quantified but the library usual attendance per day is of 1 500 people with an estimation of 10% for those who visit the exhibition (cf general University Library statistics);

- The 3 evenings with a mixed audience of local public and EU-CONEXUS participants:
  - "Dance the world" on 28th March at LRUniv Student House;

- "Listen to Europe" on 29th March at La Sirène, La Rochelle music hall and main stakeholder of EU-CONEXUS 2023 Festival;
- "Sights on Europe" on 30th March at LRUniv Student House;

	Participation	Full gauge	% EU-CONEXUS	% Local public
28th March - Dance the world	196	196	13%	87%
29th March - Music at la Sirène	250	300	20%	80%
30th March - Opening EU-CONEXUS exhibition	80	200		
30th March - Sights on Europe	80	196	63%	37%

- Scientific Interviews on Sustainable Development at LRUniv library on 28th March (open to the general public at lunch time) counted **15 local participants**;

- The Urban Sport Raid Mille Sabords organized in the city center (central beach, parks, old harbor) on 30th March afternoon; the number of passers-by was not quantified but the raid caught the eyes by its importance with 378 participants;

- FLAG ! wandering organized along a route between La Rochelle municipal library and LRUniv University Library on 30th March evening ; unfortunately, this event was held in parallel to the Urban Sport Raid and did not get much observers;

- Coastline fiction writing workshop on 30th March gathered 11 local participants;

- Sound creation / Podcast workshop on 30th March gathered 25 local participants;

- 1202 meals were served on 30th and 31st March in two student restaurants (CROUS) where EU-CONEXUS gastronomy was promoted.

We can evaluate the local public participation to **415** (evenings and scientific interviews) and surely more with the visitors of the « European mish-mash » exhibition and the Urban Sport Raid "Mille Sabords" observers who were not quantified.

The decision to mix both audiences of the FLEAA and EU-CONEXUS Festival was indeed successful. It is very unlikely that this target would have been reached without the support of the FLEAA audience.

In 2025, for the 4th edition, the Municipality of Limassol offered all the public spaces by the seafront for the Festival outdoor events.

This allowed the student visual arts exhibition to take place on the Molos seaside park from 12th to 16th May 2025. 20 student visual arts projects were exhibited on double sided big size format panels in this very popular place and it has been evaluated to 500 Limassol inhabitants who viewed this outdoor exhibition.

The exhibition opening on 13th May also caught the eyes of the passers-by by the importance of the EU-CONEXUS community gathering.



Also, two student performances (poetry readings and staged reading of a documentary theatre play) took place on the outdoor Molos amphitheatre on 14th May evening.

The theatre play was based on the true experiences of two Frederick University graduates who were forced to flee their homeland and seek refuge in Cyprus and the vibrant story attracted the local public. The event was free and open to anyone and it has been evaluated to 25 people who sat within the EU-CONEXUS community.



Impact on local territory stakeholders

Anticipation and developing bonds with stakeholders

These two Festival editions showed that the organization of such event needs to be anticipated when possible more than a year before in order to create and develop bonds with the local ecosystem.

This was the case in 2025 in Limassol where programming and logistical organization started full time in May 2023 as soon as the 3rd edition of the Festival in La Rochelle ended. Frederick University and the Department of Arts and Communication set up an ad hoc committee which met regularly and which was responsible for providing the main theme of the 4th edition and organizing all the logistics for the smooth operation of the event.

Over the two years of planning, the partnership with the **Municipality of Limassol**, associated partners to EU-CONEXUS Plus WP17, played a pivotal role.

Nicos Nicolaides, the Mayor of Limassol before the Municipal election in June 2024 had already met the EU-CONEXUS community in 2022 on the occasion of governing bodies meetings at Frederick University. He was very much in favor of a EU-CONEXUS Festival taking place in Limassol in 2025.

Even though the 2024 Municipal election in Limassol brought a new Mayor, Yiannis Armeftis, the partnership with the Municipality of Limassol continued and played a central role to ensure the success of EU-CONEXUS Festival and the participation of the community outside Frederick University.

The role of the Limassol Municipality consisted mainly on providing venues outside the University and within the city of Limassol enhancing the social community participation.

The Municipality offered all the public spaces by the seafront for the Festival outdoor events including:

- the student visual arts exhibition taking place on the Molos seaside park;
- the two performances (poetry readings and staged reading of a documentary theatre play) on 14th May at the Limassol Molos amphitheatre;
- sports activities on 14th May at the Limassol beach and on 15th May at the ancient port of Amathus archaeological site for snorkeling;
- the Festival closing party on 15th May on the Molos Promenade.

This public space offering can be evaluated to the amount of 5,000 EUR.

Mayor Yannis Armeftis addressed the Festival Opening Ceremony on 13th May 2025 at Frederick University. The ceremony was also attended by municipal councilor Andreas Nicolaou Kokkinos, and Communications officer Annita Evgeniou.

Holding EU-CONEXUS Festival and the Blue Limassol Forum in parallel, gave the opportunity for a meeting between EU-CONEXUS Alliance Rectors, External Advisory Board Members and Limassol stakeholders on 15th May. In particular, a round table discussion was held before the main Blue Limassol Forum event. The discussion was focused on targeting green port and city integration. Among the speakers was the Chair of the Governing Board of EU-CONEXUS, Prof. Radu Vacareanu. Other speakers included the Mayor of Limassol, the Special Commissioner of the Port Network Authority of the Eastern Adriatic Sea, Assoc. Prof. Vittorio Torbianelli, the Director of the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus PortCityFutures Centre and Professor at Delft University of Technology, Prof. Carola Hein, the Director

of the Maritime Policy & Strategy Institute at the Israeli Center of Blue Economy and Innovation, Professor Shaul Chorev, and more.

Three EU-CONEXUS Rectors represented the Alliance at the Blue Limassol Forum with addresses and speeches; Professor George Demosthenous, Rector of Frederick University with a welcome address, Professor Radu Vacareanu, Rector of Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Chair of the Governing Board of EU-CONEXUS with a speech on *Inclusive Coastal Planning for a Sustainable Future* and a participation to a panel discussion as well as Arturas Razbadauskas, Rector of Klaipeda University.

However, anticipating the 2023 Festival was not possible as the programming and logistical organization started full time in November 2022 when EU-CONEXUS Plus kicked off. Benefitting from the FLEAA organizational support and the team of La Rochelle Université Student House was therefore of great help.

Since 2000, the FLEAA has developed many strong partnerships with external stakeholders and three of them have supported the organization of EU-CONEXUS Festival:

- **La Rochelle City & La Rochelle Urban Community,** associated partners to EU-CONEXUS Plus WP17 ;
- **La Sirène**, local music hall.

La Rochelle City and La Rochelle Urban Community's contributions focused on:

- **Communication aspects** for both festivals FLEAA & EU-CONEXUS
  - Communication campaign at La Rochelle city bus stands from 8th to 21st March 2023
  - Communication campaign at La Rochelle city round abouts from 21st March to 3rd April 2023
- **Free access to public spaces** for the FLAG! Wandering and the Urban Sport Raid on 30th March 2023.

La Sirène, music hall was also a strong partner with:

- The hosting of the music evening on 29th March 2023, giving a professional frame to student music performances;
- The offering of free spaces for the organization of the institutional cocktail dedicated to the stakeholders;
- The organization of the 29th March evening – 2nd part – with a dedicated Europavox night hosting various bands coming from EU-CONEXUS countries.

However, as La Sirène was very late on the organizational part and the programming of it, the information did not appear in their institutional agenda and did not attract as much local and regular audience as it could have done.
250 people attended the evening (the full gauge is at 300) and the split was approximately between 20% for the EU-CONEXUS community and 80% for the local public.

A **dedicated social event** (institutional cocktail) was organized for the stakeholders on 29th March 2023 evening during the presentation of the student music projects at La Sirène. The objective was to mix the two communities (EU-CONEXUS and local stakeholders) so as to strengthen the connections between them and impulse a possible contribution to European youth projects.

Unfortunately, stakeholders' participation showed to be very poor. Out of the 217 invitations sent to various fields (Nouvelle Aquitaine Region, Mayors of La Rochelle Urban Community, La Rochelle Urban Community, Charente-Maritime Departement, French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), IFREMER Research Institute, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Nouvelle Aquitaine academic region, Ports, Valbiotis, CPME, Banque Populaire and local companies such as Léa Nature, Francofolies, Atlantic cluster, groupe Merling, Decathlon ... , Medef, CCI, Excelia Business School, Eigsi Engineering School, CESI Engineering School, Universities) 6 registrations only were made and there was only one participation of La Rochelle Urban Community representative.

Communication aspects and reach

In **2023,** in order to hold an eco-friendly and sustainable event, it was decided to share only online the EU-CONEXUS Festival programme.

The FLEAA programme was both printed in 3150 copies and available online.

Communication on EU-CONEXUS Festival was made before, during and after the event, as follows:
Before EU-CONEXUS Festival

- EU-CONEXUS Festival landing page was created on website
- Various posts were made on EU-CONEXUS social media (see below)
- 1 teaser was created

✓ **Locally, communication campaign** in La Rochelle city for both Festivals was made
- at the city bus stands from 8th to 21st 2023
- at the city round abouts from 21st March to 3rd April 2023

✓ **Two press releases were made:**
- 1st press release dedicated to the FLEAA with its European dimension: 100 journalists targeted / 44 journalists opened it / 121 views
- 2nd press release on EU-CONEXUS Festival: 98 journalists targeted / 37 journalists opened it / 60 views

✓ **Local press articles** (joint article on Festival les étudiants à l'affiche & EU-CONEXUS) were edited (see annexes) :
- Point Commun (LR city and suburb magazine) – January to March 2023

Partage

Les étudiants se mettent à l'affiche

Expositions photos et BD, initiatives étudiantes, théâtre, clown, danse, cinéma, ateliers participatifs, concert et surprises « graff'iques »… Le programme de la 23e édition du Festival Les étudiants à l'affiche, du 23 mars au 4 avril prochain, s'annonce particulièrement riche et varié. Une édition un peu particulière puisque La Rochelle Université, qui fête en 2023 son 30e anniversaire, accueillera du 28 au 30 mars la 3e édition du Festival EU-CONEXUS*, festival de l'Université européenne qu'elle pilote depuis 2019. Une belle occasion de mettre à l'honneur le littoral dans toute sa diversité artistique, scientifique et linguistique à travers des créations et initiatives signées des étudiants sous la houlette d'artistes professionnels. C'est gratuit et ouvert au public !

+ univ-larochelle.fr

**EU-CONEXUS est le 1er établissement européen d'enseignement supérieur et de recherche dédié au Littoral Urbain Durable Intelligent (LUDI). Coordonné par La Rochelle Université, il réunit 9 universités d'Europe.*



© Matthias Garnier

- Sud-Ouest (regional article) – on 22nd March 2023

La Rochelle : les étudiants se mettent à nouveau en scène



Parmi la programmation du festival : « Nos futurs », une pièce imaginée par la doctorante Louise Bernard à partir de son sujet de thèse, dans laquelle les étudiants invitent le public à imaginer à quoi pourrait ressembler notre territoire dans vingt ans.
© Crédit photo : Romuald Augé

Du 23 mars au 4 avril, les étudiants de l'université de La Rochelle présentent leurs créations artistiques et culturelles avec la 23e édition du festival Les Étudiants à l'affiche, ouvert à tous

Ils seront entre 250 et 300 étudiants cette année à présenter leur travail artistique et culturel. Danse, théâtre, expo, ciné-concert, déambulation burlesque, podcast, jeu immersif… Le choix ne manquera pas encore cette année pour la 23e édition du festival Les Étudiants à l'affiche, du 23 mars au 4 avril, un festival ouvert à tous et gratuit (1), co-construit avec les partenaires de la scène culturelle rochelaise. Initié par l'Espace culture - Maison de l'étudiant. Il offre l'opportunité aux étudiants de l'université de La Rochelle, qui fête ses 30 ans cette année, de se mettre en scène sur le campus et dans la ville.

« D'abord orienté sur la danse et le théâtre, le festival s'est diversifié au fil des années. Il intervient dans le cadre d'une pratique libre, mais qui se présente sous forme de bonification, qui va compenser une moyenne finale un peu faible en cas de besoin, explique Diego Jarak, vice-président en charge de la culture. Et le fait d'être confronté au public fait partie de la formation. »

Le festival en profite pour accueillir cette année le troisième festival EU-Conexus, de l'université européenne pilotée par La Rochelle Université depuis 2019 et portant sur le littoral. Les 28, 29 et 30 mars, le festival EU-Conexus, qui regroupe neuf universités européennes, embarquera le public à la découverte de nouvelles cultures, sonorités, danses et identités.

Un espace d'expression

Un buffet artistique avec des avant-premières lancera le festival ce jeudi 23 mars à la Maison de l'étudiant, à partir de 18 h 30 (entrée libre).

Parmi les étudiants participants, Zoé Bouchaud en troisième année de lettres et Baptiste Bélisaire en troisième année de licence d'informatique. Ils seront sur scène dans « Amours sans faim », une variation du mythe de Dom Juan, dirigée et mise en scène par Laurence Andreini du Théâtre Amazone et Éric Bergeonneau, mais également dans leur propre pièce « Stylocratie ».

Chaque année, ils participent à cette « aventure humaine avant tout ». Une expérience qu'ils jugent enrichissante, notamment pour les étudiants qui n'ont pas de dominante artistique dans leur cursus. « Cela crée une ouverture que l'on n'a pas forcément dans nos cours et nous permet de sortir des sentiers battus », précise Baptiste Bélisaire. « Cela nous donne un espace pour retransmettre nos valeurs et nos luttes, c'est précieux », ajoute Zoé Bouchaud, qui s'est découvert une vocation de costumière.

Les initiatives étudiantes sont en effet souvent révélatrices « de leurs questionnements et de leurs préoccupations », souligne Viki Kesmaecker, chargée de l'action culturelle et de la communication.

C'est aussi l'occasion pour eux de mener un projet de A à Z, du financement aux décors en passant par la création, la communication et la recherche de comédiens, même si la Maison de l'étudiant les accompagne. « Ils ont carte blanche. On les considère comme des professionnels », ajoute Jérôme Grignon, en charge de la médiation culturelle.

Enfin, l'édition 2023 du festival propose également, à partir du 24 mars et jusqu'au 26 avril au premier étage de la médiathèque Michel-Crépeau, l'exposition « Dis-moi ton secret », continuité de celle de l'an dernier, élaborée par les ateliers d'écriture et de micro-édition à partir de 200 secrets confiés par des étudiants.

(1) Espace culture Maison de l'étudiant, 3, passage Jacqueline-de-Romilly, à La Rochelle. Tél. 05 16 49 67 76. Mail : culture@univ-lr.fr Programme complet sur le site Internet : www.univ-larochelle.fr/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Programme-FEAA-2023.pdf. Gratuit, sur réservations sur https://bit.ly/programmationfleaa.

During EU-CONEXUS Festival
Post and reels were made.

- Welcome to the Festival (28th March @ 8.30 am) was recorded
- The 3 evenings were streamed and recorded on EU-CONEXUS Youtube Channel:

  28th March Dance the World – 279 views

  29th March Listen to Europe – 820 views

  30th March Sights on Europe – 162 views

After EU-CONEXUS Festival
One aftermovie was created, posts and articles written.

Partner universities websites and social media channels were used as complementary communication channels.

Statistics of EU-CONEXUS social media campaign for EU-CONEXUS Festival 2023

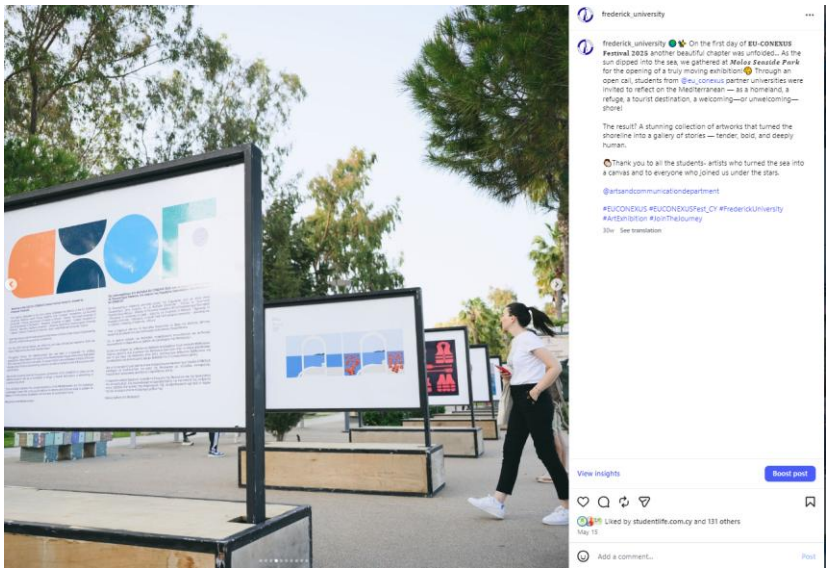
DATES	CONTENT	SOCIAL MEDIA	REACH / INTERACTIONS	POSTS LINKS
21/04	*Afermovie*	Facebook	**535** / 31	here
19/04	*Aftermovie*	Linkedin	**240** / 23	here
12/04	*Article on festival*	Linkedin	**805 /** 19	here
04/04	*Festival album photos*	Facebook	**1756** /47	here
04/04	*Aftermovie*	Instagram Reel	**1452** / 76	here
01/04	*Look back on the festival*	Instagram Reel	**1652 /** 68	
29/03	*La Sirène – festival evening*	Linkedin	**474 / 7**	here
29/03	*La Sirène – festival evening*	Facebook	**275** / 14	here
28/03	*Dance the world evening - event*	Linkedin	**325 /** 5	here
28/03	*Festival opening*	Linkedin	**1978 /** 67	here
28/03	*Dance the world evening*	Facebook	**333** /15	here
26/03	*festival - teaser*	Facebook	**213** / 6	here
23/03	*Festival launch – Klaipeda video*	Facebook	**268** / 13	here
20/03	*Festival launch*	Linkedin	**727/ 26**	here
20/03	*Festival molding workshop*	Facebook	**215** / 11	here
15/03	*Teaser festival*	Instagram Reel	**3418 /** 54	
15/03	*Festival launch*	Facebook	**256** / 20	here

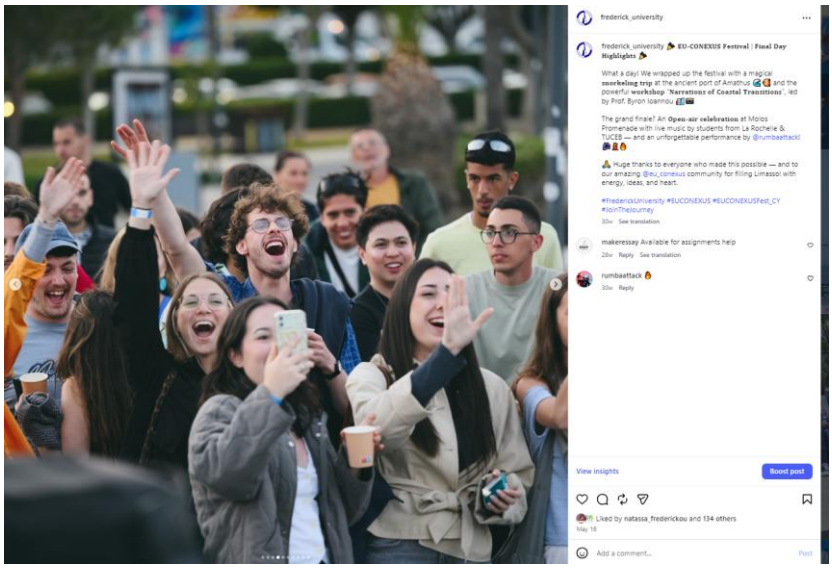
In **2025,** the Festival communication campaign was also very active with the following posts on social media:

Date	Post	FB	LinkedIn	IG	X
12/05	Festival countdown			+ ***(Only Story)***	
	Student Board meeting	+		+ ***(Only Story)***	
13/05	Festival opening	+		+ ***(Only Story)***	
	Festival Workshop 1	+		+	
	Festival Open-air exhibition			+ ***(Only Story)***	
14/05	SMUCs Weekly Bite	+	+	+	
	Festival Workshop 1	+			
	Festival Open-air exhibition				+
	Festival Workshop 2			+ ***(Only Story)***	
	I AM STUDENT Student Congress	+		+	
	Festival Sports Activity 1			+ ***(Only Story)***	
15/05	Festival Day 2 recap	+			
	Blue Limassol Forum: happening today	+			+
	Festival Workshop 3			+ ***(Only Story)***	
	Festival Sports activity 2			+ ***(Only Story)***	
	Festival Closing party			+ ***(Only Story)***	
	New OLH	+	+	+	
16/05	Teaching Academy Training at KU	+	+	+	
	Governing board	+	+	+	+
	Day 3 recap	+			
19/05	Research Conference at KU	+	+	+	
	Blue Limassol Forum recap	+			

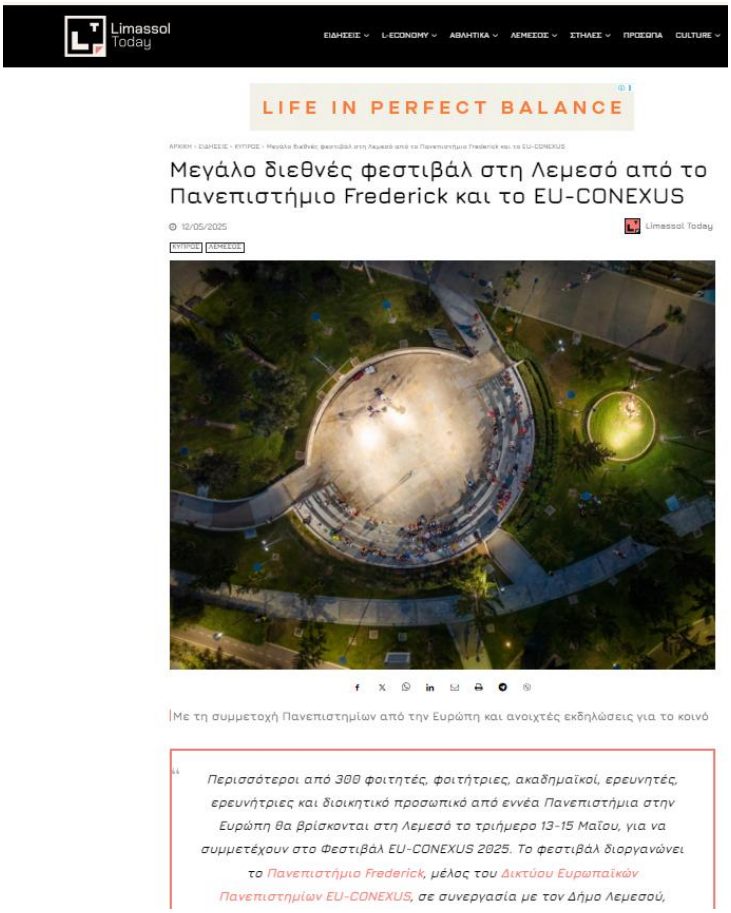
20/05	Festival Final post - recap	+		+	







A press release was issued on May 8th by Frederick University to announce EU-CONEXUS Festival.



One more press release was issued on May 12th focusing on EU-CONEXUS Governing Board meeting. Both PRs were disseminated on local media.



Η ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ
ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

In the centre of everything.

Αρχική Σελίδα / Κύπρος / Παιδεία

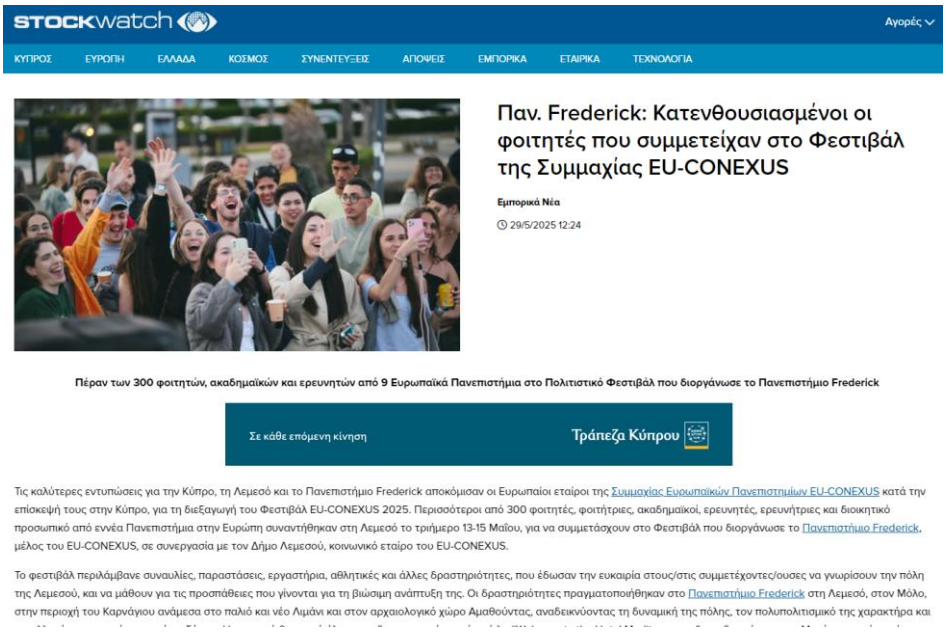
Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick:Φιλοξενεί το Συμβούλιο Πρυτάνεων της EU-CONEXUS

Στο επίκεντρο η έξυπνη και αειφόρος ανάπτυξη των παρακτίων περιοχών της Ευρώπης – Στρατηγικές αποφάσεις για τη Συμμαχία

Το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick φιλοξενεί αυτή την εβδομάδα τους Πρυτάνεις των Πανεπιστημίων από την Ευρώπη, για το δια ζώσης Συμβούλιο Πρυτάνεων (Rector's Governing Board) της συμμαχίας ευρωπαϊκών πανεπιστημίων EU-CONEXUS, (εννέα πανεπιστήμια από εννέα χώρες

NEWSROOM

A new press release was issued on local media after the event, highlighting the presence of many students from European Universities in Cyprus and the advantages deriving from Alliances like EU-CONEXUS.



STOCKwatch

Παν. Frederick: Κατενθουσιασμένοι οι φοιτητές που συμμετείχαν στο Φεστιβάλ της Συμμαχίας EU-CONEXUS

Εμπορικά Νέα

29/5/2025 12:24

Πέραν των 300 φοιτητών, ακαδημαϊκών και ερευνητών από 9 Ευρωπαϊκά Πανεπιστήμια στο Πολιτιστικό Φεστιβάλ που διοργάνωσε το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick

Σε κάθε επόμενη κίνηση Τράπεζα Κύπρου

Τις καλύτερες εντυπώσεις για την Κύπρο, τη Λεμεσό και το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick αποκόμισαν οι Ευρωπαίοι εταίροι της Συμμαχίας Ευρωπαϊκών Πανεπιστημίων EU-CONEXUS κατά την επίσκεψή τους στην Κύπρο, για τη διεξαγωγή του Φεστιβάλ EU-CONEXUS 2025. Περισσότεροι από 300 φοιτητές, φοιτήτριες, ακαδημαϊκοί, ερευνητές, ερευνήτριες και διοικητικό προσωπικό από εννέα Πανεπιστήμια στην Ευρώπη συναντήθηκαν στη Λεμεσό το τριήμερο 13-15 Μαΐου, για να συμμετάσχουν στο Φεστιβάλ που διοργάνωσε το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick, μέλος του EU-CONEXUS, σε συνεργασία με τον Δήμο Λεμεσού, κοινωνικό εταίρο του EU-CONEXUS.

Το φεστιβάλ περιλάμβανε συναυλίες, παραστάσεις, εργαστήρια, αθλητικές και άλλες δραστηριότητες, που έδωσαν την ευκαιρία στους/στις συμμετέχοντες/ουσες να γνωρίσουν την πόλη της Λεμεσού, και να μάθουν για τις προσπάθειες που γίνονται για τη βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη της. Οι δραστηριότητες πραγματοποιήθηκαν στο Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick στη Λεμεσό, στον Μόλο, στην περιοχή του Καρνάγιου ανάμεσα στο παλιό και νέο Λιμάνι και στον αρχαιολογικό χώρο Αμαθούντας, αναδεικνύοντας τη δυναμική της πόλης, τον πολυπολιτισμικό της χαρακτήρα και



ΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ

Δευτέρα
15 Δεκεμβρίου 2025

ΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ NEWS ΚΥΠΡΟΣ ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΑ ΑΠΟΨΕΙΣ ΓΗΠΕΔΟ BUZZLIFE ΑΓΟΡΑ ΠΑΡΑΘΥΡΟ Politis «Π»PREMIUM

| Κύπρος

Παν. Frederick: Κατενθουσιασμένοι οι φοιτητές που συμμετείχαν στο Φεστιβάλ της Συμμαχίας EU-CONEXUS

Δημοσιεύθηκε 29 Μαΐου 2025 15:25

Πέραν των 300 φοιτητών, ακαδημαϊκών και ερευνητών από 9 Ευρωπαϊκά Πανεπιστήμια στο Πολιτιστικό Φεστιβάλ που διοργάνωσε το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick

Τις καλύτερες εντυπώσεις για την Κύπρο, τη Λεμεσό και το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick αποκόμισαν οι Ευρωπαίοι εταίροι της Συμμαχίας Ευρωπαϊκών Πανεπιστημίων EU-CONEXUS κατά την επίσκεψή τους στην Κύπρο, για τη διεξαγωγή του Φεστιβάλ EU-CONEXUS 2025. Περισσότεροι από 300 φοιτητές, φοιτήτριες, ακαδημαϊκοί, ερευνητές, ερευνήτριες και διοικητικό προσωπικό από εννέα Πανεπιστήμια στην Ευρώπη συναντήθηκαν στη Λεμεσό το τριήμερο 13-15 Μαΐου, για να συμμετάσχουν στο Φεστιβάλ που διοργάνωσε το Πανεπιστήμιο Frederick, μέλος του EU-CONEXUS, σε συνεργασία με τον Δήμο Λεμεσού, κοινωνικό εταίρο του EU-CONEXUS.

Ροή ειδήσεων Δημοφιλή

Έτοιμοι να εργαστούμε για πιο ουσιαστική Ενεργειακή Ένωση, είπε ο Δαμιανός στις Βρυξέλλες

Ολοκληρώθηκε η συγχώνευση των Entersoft και SOFTONE

Οι πρώτες εκτιμήσεις για Σατσιά και αναμονή

ΤΑ ΑΚΙΝΗΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑΣ

Επαυλη 3ων υπνοδ. με πισίνα στην Πόλη Χρυσοχούς

Διαμέρισμα 2 υπνοδ. στην Πόλη Χρυσοχούς

Κατοικία 3ων υπνοδ. στην Τάλα

Στούντιο διαμέρισμα στο Παραλίμνι

Altamira

Conclusion

EU-CONEXUS Festival is not just a celebratory event for EU-CONEXUS Community, it is a **strategic instrument** that translates the Alliance vision into action.

If combined with another local event which not only ensures cost-efficiency and logistical coherence but also broadens the scope of attendance and fosters collaboration and community building, such event proves to be sustainable with an interesting impact on the community.

Taking a step back to look at what the two EU-CONEXUS Festival editions brought to the Alliance, it seems clear that this event has contributed to a broader strategic goal by:

- **fostering cross-cultural and inter-university cooperation**

EU-CONEXUS Festival has brought together students, staff and communities from all partner universities, reinforcing their sense of belonging to the Alliance.
It has encouraged intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and multilingualism, all key components of the Alliance inclusiveness and diversity goals.

- **strengthening community engagement and societal impact**

EU-CONEXUS Festival has raised awareness about coastal sustainability and the importance of smart management of coastal cities and ecosystems.
It has connected the Alliance's academic work to local coastal communities fostering citizen participation in sustainable solutions.

- **strengthening the Global Visibility and Identity of EU-CONEXUS**

EU-CONEXUS Festival has showcased the Alliance values — interdisciplinarity, sustainability and collaboration — to a wide audience, local and European.

Definitely, EU-CONEXUS Festival acts as a soft diplomacy and outreach platform, demonstrating how EU-CONEXUS integrates campus life, education, research, and society around sustainable coastal development.